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INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 STR-01 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 EA-06 FRB-03 INR-07 NEA-09

NSAE-00 OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01

OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 FEA-01

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O R 191123Z MAR 75 FM USMISSION OECD PARIS TO SECSTATE WASH DC IMMEDIATE 6084 INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ETRD, OECD

SUBJECT: XCSS WORK ON COMMODITIES

REF: OECD PARIS 06533

1. SUMMARY. SECRETARIAT HAS OUTLINED TO US ITS SCENARIO FOR FULFILLING MANDATE FOR RAW MATERIALS WORK GIVEN BY XCSS MARCH 12. BASIC TIMETABLE CALLS FOR DISTRIBUTION OF OUTLINE TO SELECTED DELS MARCH 19, THREE-DAY WORKING SESSION OF EXPERTS FROM SELECTED MEMBER GOVERNMENTS WEEK OF APRIL 7, DISTRIBUTION OF PAPERS TO ALL MEMBERS BY APRIL 18, AND MEETING OF TRADE COMMITTEE TO GIVE COMMENTS ON PAPER APRIL 29 OR MAY 2. ACTION REQUESTED: NAME OF US EXPERT TO WORK WITH SECRETARIAT TASK FORCE AND DEPT COMMENTS ON PROPOSED DATES FOR WORK SESSION AND TRADE COMMITTEE MEETING. END SUMMARY.

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2. DEPSECGEN ELDIN TOLD US MARCH 17 THAT SECRETARIAT

HAS ESTABLISHED TASK FORCE CONSISTING ESSENTIALLY OF REPS OF ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (PLESSZ) AND TRADE DIRECTORATE (DEVOS) TO UNDERTAKE, IN CON-JUNCTION WITH EXPERTS FROM OTHER DIRECTORATES AND SELECTED MEMBER COUNTRIES, DRAFTING OF PAPER ON RAW MATERIALS FOR CONSIDERATION BY NEXT XCSS. PAPER WILL AIM AT DEFINING PROBLEMS AND SETTING OUT POLICY OP-TIONS, ADDRESSING BOTH SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM ASPECTS. AND USING A FEW RAW MATERIALS AS CONCRETE ILLUSTRATIONS. TRADE COMMITTEE WILL MEET JUST BEFORE XCSS AT END OF APRIL OR BEGINNING OF MAY TO OFFER COMMENTS ON PAPER (HE SAID THIS HAD BEEN CLEARED WITH TC CHAIRMAN HERMES). ELDIN INDICATED SECRETARIAT DID NOT BELIEVE THAT ANYTHING COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED AT MEETING OF EXPERTS FROM ALL 24 MEMBER COUNTRIES AND THUS WISHED TO CONFINE ACTIVITIES UP TO APRIL 18, TARGET DATE FOR DISTRIBUTION OF PAPER, TO SELECTED GROUP OF COUNTRIES--US, UK, GERMANY, FRANCE, CANADA, AUSTRALIA, JAPAN, EC COMMISSION AND PERHAPS SWEDEN.

- 3. SECRETARIAT'S TIMETABLE INCLUDES DISTRIBUTION OF OUTLINE FOR PAPER TO SELECTED DELS MORNING OF MARCH 19, AND A MEETING OF EXPERTS WITH THE SECRETARIAT TASK FORCE WEEK OF APRIL 7 (TO BE DESCRIBED, HOWEVER, AS A WORK SESSION TO AVOID OFFENDING COUNTRIES NOT INCLUDED). DRAFT OF A FINAL PAPER WILL THEN BE PREPARED FOR DISTRIBUTION TO ALL MEMBERS BY APRIL 18. A TRADE COMMITTEE MEETING APRIL 29 OR MAY 2 WOULD OFFER MEMBERS A CHANCE TO COMMENT ON PAPER BEFORE THE XCSS MAY 6-7. AFTER XCSS THERE WOULD POSSIBLY BE A NEW PHASE OF WORK TO DEVELOP A REFINED PAPER FOR THE MINISTERIAL.
- 4. ELDIN GAVE PREVIEW OF OUTLINE TO BE DISTRIBUTED LATER IN WEEK, INDICATING IT WILL PROBABLY HAVE FOLLOWING FOUR POINTS:

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- (A) "MACRO-ECONOMIC" ASSESSMENT (PRODUCTION, INVESTMENT, PRICES, TRADE, ETC.);
- (B) ANALYSIS OF ILLUSTRATIVE COMMODITIES (COPPER, TIN, IRON ORE, RUBBER AND WOOL);
- (C) MAIN POLICY ISSUES;
- (D) POLICY OPTIONS AND INSTRUMENTS.
- 5. REGARDING EXPERTS, ELDIN SAID SECRETARIAT WOULD BE LOOKING FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OF THE SORT WHO WOULD NORMALLY BRIEF XCSS REPRESENTATIVES ON RAW MATERIALS POLICY. HE URGED US TO PROVIDE HIM WITH THE NAME OF A US EXPERT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT THE SECRETARIAT COULD BEGIN MAKING CONTACT. HE ALSO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INDICATED SECRETARIAT WOULD WELCOME ANY UPDATED ANALYSES OF THE SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO THE SELECTED RAW MATERIALS WHICH THE US GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE ABLE TO MAKE AVAILABLE.

6. MISSION COMMENT: WE BELIEVE SECRETARIAT'S PROPOSED SCENARIO REPRESENTS SENSIBLE APPROACH TO OBTAINING GOOD QUALITY PAPER ON RAW MATERIALS PROBLEMS IN LIMITED TIME AVAILABLE BEFORE NEXT XCSS. PROPOSED PROCEDURES SEEM TO OFFER US MAXIMUM OPPORTUNITY FOR HAVING ITS VIEWS REFLECTED IN FINAL DOCUMENT. IN ADDITION, TRADE

COMMITTEE WOULD APPEAR TO BE ABLE TO PLAY AN APPROPRIATE AND USEFUL ROLE. WE URGE DEPT TO CONSIDER AN APPROPRIATE USG CONTRIBUTION TO SECRETARIAT EFFORT IN THE FORM OF RAW MATERIALS PAPERS AND TO PROVIDE THE MISSION WITH THE NAME OF US EXPERT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE WILL CABLE SECRETARIAT'S OUTLINE FOR DEPARTMENT COMMENTS AS SOON AS RECEIVED. TURNER

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